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Census Bureau Opens Field Office For Local Test

The U.S. Census Bureau said today it has opened a temporary field office in Thomasville, Ga., to conduct field operations for the 2004 Census Test in the southwest Georgia counties of Colquitt, Thomas and Tift. The Georgia counties make up one of two 2004 test sites. The other comprises eight neighborhoods in northwest Queens, N.Y.

The Census Bureau is hiring temporary workers familiar with the three test counties in Georgia. The local workers will test new technology for potential use in the next national census in 2010.

The temporary employees initially will be needed to accurately identify all the living quarters in the mostly rural counties, deliver questionnaires to households and ensure that address lists and maps are as complete and accurate as possible before "Census Day," April 1, 2004. From late April to July 2004, census-takers will contact households from which the Census Bureau did not receive a completed questionnaire by mail. Evaluating the use of hand-held computers to collect information from respondents who did not return their questionnaires by mail is a major objective of the test.

"We are hiring census workers living in the test communities because people who live there know their neighborhoods and are familiar with the areas," said James F. Holmes, Atlanta regional office director. "They will carry easily recognizable, official identification and an official Census Bureau bag."

These jobs will allow employees to work flexible hours. For the census operations conducted in the early months of 2004, the tasks may be carried out mostly during the day, although some evening or weekend work may be necessary to contact residents. During the follow-up phase from late April to July, many interviews will take place in the evenings and on weekends, when respondents are more likely to be at home. The part-time positions are well-suited for students, retirees and others who want to earn extra money. The jobs are temporary and last five to eight weeks in most cases.

(more)

The hourly salary rates in Georgia are \$12.25 for crew leaders, who supervise field work; \$10.75 for enumerators, who collect data from respondents; and \$8.25 for clerks who support office operations.

For census test employment information, call (800) 819-4215; TDD (404) 730-3963. For further information about the 2004 test, call the Census Bureau's regional office at (404) 730-3832 or the local test office at (229) 228-3800.